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SUBJECT: DAILY IRAQI WEBSITE MONITORING - October 30, 2005

SUMMARY: Discussions of Iraq under 'U.S. occupation,' December elections, and Sunni political participation were the major editorial themes of Iraqi, Arabic language websites on October 30, 2005. END SUMMARY.

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SELECTED COMMENTARIES

[1A.](#) "Sanctions on Iraq"
(Editorial by Fatih Abdul Salam - Iraq 4 All News -
<http://iraq4all.org/viewnews.php?id=10512> - Independent,
based in Denmark)

"Iraq remained under sanctions imposed on its political leadership for over thirteen years. These sanctions inflicted harm on people, but not only did they spare the ruling regime, they were also a means for vicious enrichment in a way that was never thought possible. Today, Iraq is not far from U.S. sanctions. Everything follows the rules of U.S. occupation forces, who control the country; no security, economic, or political agendas can be implemented without gaining the American green light, so as to avoid any conflict what-so-ever with their overwhelming 161,000 troops who are not willing to take any risks or jeopardize their security.

"Every Iraqi politician is surrounded by the American vision that seldom incorporates Iraqi interests. The American vision restricts the politician's vision; he needs to be extremely careful with his political vocabulary so as not to find himself accused of violating the principles of democracy and reform, especially with the presence of U.S. followers who support the American agenda in a subordinate and humiliating manner. It is not much different for ordinary Iraqis, who are governed in their daily lives by U.S. military patrols that set ever-changing routes which Iraqis must follow from home to work and any other location. And if one fails to follow these routes, Iraqis' lives might be the price.

"In such an environment, a true democracy-or even a semi-successful democracy-can never be built because democracy is not an ethnic, sectarian, or doctrine-based impulse. A reform in mentality should be the basis for democratic practice, which should include traditional mechanisms that begin with nominations and end with voting.

"The truth is that we are still under sanctions, not only from U.S. tanks, but from the narrow views they have brought along; they repeatedly overlooked violations committed against democracy, and this has made any other view nothing more than a solo tune with no hope of being heard."

[1B.](#) "Iraq's Political Scene between U.S. Interests and Upcoming Elections"
(Editorial by Kadhum Al-Bedairi - Kitabat - "Writings" -
<http://www.kitabat.com/i9543.htm> - Independent, based in Germany)

"Who can speculate about the results of the next election? Will the same alliances retain their memberships with the same number of seats? In fact, the next parliament whets the appetite for participation because it will be a parliament with a four-year term and its first task will be to review the constitution. This means that the alliances with larger shares of seats will be more effective negotiating parties regardless of negative or positive participation. In addition to the constitutional review, there are other issues, including occupation, proposed bases, and other critical topics related to oil and regional affairs.

"Some researchers have indicated that foreign parties and

agendas have established presences on the Iraqi scene and have been conducting activities for a long time now. Everyone is gambling on what the future holds and everyone is playing the role of the fortune teller in speculating what the Iraqi political chart might look like after a possible shuffle of cards.

"Among all of this we find America's presence in all the vital details of the process. All deals are made under the table and behind the scenes in complete silence-without any clear indication of who will be Iraq's next knight. Allawi? Chalabi? Will it be another face trained to be Iraq's Karzai!?! And what a surprise it would be if this new character were a cleric in a traditional outfit. Everything is possible in Iraq today.

"The problem of which everyone here is aware is that President Bush only has thirty-nine months left in office with no hope until now of solving some of the problems that have placed him in an unenviable position. These problems, which signal an early start for what is known as 'the second term curse' have placed President Bush in a situation where he attempts to present Americans with any shred of hope that might provide him with an exit from his crisis, which includes the mounting death and financial tolls of the war in Iraq.

"The Iraqi election only presents American policy with another obstacle. U.S. policy has classified the Iraq issue as a top priority for the White House; it is unreasonable to believe that the hundreds of billions of dollars spent and over 2,000 troops killed and 17,000 wounded were all sacrificed by the U.S. for the sake of Al-Ja'fari or Al-Hakim, who know this fact only too well. As for whom the next Ja'fari will be, this is still being cooked on calm a fire."

1C. "The Election Battle after the Constitution"
(Editorial by Ja'far Mohammed Ahmed - Independent Iraqi News Agency - <http://www.normal.iraq-ina.com/showarticles.php?id=1535>)

"The announcement that three major Sunni Arab committees in Iraq-the Islamic Party, the National Dialogue Council, and the Iraq People's Conference-will form a new alliance to participate in the December 15th election emphasizes Sunni persistence to participate in the political process. They see it is a legal and national necessity through which they can convey their opinions about what is going on in Iraq under American occupation.

"The new alliance of Sunni Arabs, under the name 'Iraqi Consensus Front,' is a bold step considering their loss in the referendum battle, which ended in the constitution's ratification. The new alliance may also help Sunni Arabs in negotiations over constitutional changes, according to an agreement achieved by American diplomats days before the constitutional referendum.

"The Iraqi Consensus Front's announcement that the door is open for any political entity or bloc that wants to join the alliance signifies a call to broaden participation in the election-and to disregard calls to boycott. It is also an attempt to gather the Iraqi masses, and all its factions, under one political bloc in order to achieve a positive result and to benefit from the mistakes of the lost referendum battle.

"Sunni Arabs are confronting a new test. Their masses should be unified from now until the parliamentary election. They should benefit from the lessons of the referendum and the last boycott because ballot boxes are the best way to express opinions. The new direction is required in order to establish a strong electoral program that places the country's interests above everything and gives priority to driving the occupation out of Iraq, which would win great popular support in the election. This would be a positive result, enabling [Sunnis] to influence events in Iraq and put an end to ethnic and sectarian conflicts. Will Sunni Arabs win in the upcoming election battle? Or will the referendum scenario be repeated?"

1D. "A Stand with Iraq's Next Stage"
(Editorial by Youssif Fadhil - Al-Nahrain - "The Two Rivers" - http://www.nahrain.com/d/news/05/10/30/nhr103_0g.html)

"What does Iraq expect after ratifying the constitution? The answer to this question requires that one is aware of several issues linked to previous events and current events. Constitutional ratification was considered a major achievement in the Iraqi political process. Ratification would have been [an achievement] if the constitution was passed in an acceptable manner. But its current status is suspicious due to how the process was promoted-specifically, America's concern in the subject and the way it was treated as a necessity that could not be delayed.

"There are debts from which Iraq is suffering that exceed \$100 billion; they will not be written off unless Iraq wins a certificate of good behavior from the World Bank and the blessings of the main countries running the political process in Iraq. May we have the right to ask about these dues? Iraq is living in a state of security, economic, institutional, agricultural, cultural and environmental disappointment. Iraq is near disaster. It is enough to watch on satellite channels the painful scenes of terror that cause goose bumps because of their dreadfulness. It is enough to hear about administrative and financial corruption, not to mention the country's institutes, which are more like coffee shops than places of work-to go to work or not show up is all the same.

"The consecutive Iraqi governments have not had the authority to make decisions unless the coalition approves...To tell the people the truth and deal with situations as they are will win the government respect, enabling it to bypass difficulties and gain benefits for Iraq from the occupying country. Lying to people will weaken the government's stance in negotiations with occupation forces.

"There is a probability that the U.S. will create military alliances with the upcoming Iraqi government under the pretext of fighting terror. This might be acceptable to the Iraqi government because of the difficult security situation in Iraq. But such alliances would create sensitivity issues with neighboring countries. Haste in accepting or refusing such offers might not serve the Iraqi people as much as it might serve the interests of other countries.

"A country occupying Iraq will focus on developing crude oil production. That might correspond with Iraq's economic interests. Multi-national oil companies will invest and develop, but not necessarily in order to benefit Iraqi interests! Yes, Iraq is living through an economic crisis and it needs money and investments. Investments would push the country's economy and move it away from economic recession. Thus, gradual and regular investment is better than getting 'quick' money that cannot be used in the best way and, instead, may wind up being wasted or stolen or allocated to illusory projects.

"Iraq will be pushed to borrow and find loans from financial institutes such as the World Bank. That may result in Iraq losing its ability to make independent political decisions. Iraq and its people will become hostages to working off debts. Many problems will be created among the central, regional and provincial governments. And many of these problems may seem normal because Iraq has had no practical experience.

"We should be careful about organizing trade and privatization. Iraq is underdeveloped economically, administratively and culturally. Iraq needs a lot of time to digest what has happened in the world. During this time, the Iraqi economy should be protected from industrial goods and agricultural products. We need a well-thought-out government project that would aim to let the Iraqi industrial and agricultural sectors flourish. The issue of Iraq joining the WTO should not be considered by any Iraqi government in the near future because of the abnormal conditions Iraq is presently facing. These are some ideas which I hope political powers will study and which I hope will motivate those powers to be cautious during their upcoming political work ahead of the election."

SATTERFIELD